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## WEAPONS



"I HAVE MADE MANY ENEMIES, OFTEN WITHOUT KNOWING HOW OR WHY, ALWAYS WITHOUT TRYING, WITHOUT SEEKING THEM. NEVER WANTING TO FIGHT ANY, I HAVE FOUGHT THEM ALL...

"DOUBTLESS THERE WILL BE MORE IN THE FUTURE, PERHAPS EVEN A NEW FOE THIS VERY DAY. I REALIZE NOW THAT IT WILL NEVER END. AND SO...I WILL DO WHAT I MUST...

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"... ARMED WITH THAT WHICH MIGHT END THE PRESENT MADNESS. SHATTERING THE FALSE CROWN OF POWER WORN BY MI-6.

GOT TO HURRY SHANG. IF I KNOW BLACK JACK. HE WON'T WAIT FOR LONG-- NOT WITH SIR DENIS IN TROUBLE.



WHAT ABOUT THIS, LEIKO? THE TAPE.

"OF SHOCKWAVE'S VOICE, PROVING THAT MI-6 HAS BEEN PLOTTING OUR ASSASSINATIONS.



GOOD QUESTION. IT'S OUR ONLY REAL WEAPON-- IF WE CAN GET IT INTO THE HANDS OF THE PRIME MINISTER-- SO IT'S GOT TO BE KEPT IN A SAFE PLACE...

...WHICH EXCLUDES THIS FLAT.

WHY?



COME NOW, SHANG.

BY NOW YOU SHOULD BE WISE TO THE RULES OF OUR "GAMES OF DECEIT AND DEATH."



BLACK JACK LEFT SHOCKWAVE WITH THE POLICE ON HIS WAY TO THE CASTLE IN SCOTLAND...

YES, BECAUSE WE COULD NOT TURN HIM OVER TO MI-6...



RIGHT-- THERE WAS NOTHING ELSE WE COULD DO.

BUT HOW LONG DO YOU THINK IT WAS BEFORE THE POLICE TURNED SHOCKWAVE OVER TO MI-6?

YES... I SEE. MI-6'S INFLUENCE EXTENDS EVERYWHERE IN THIS COUNTRY.



YOU'VE GOT IT. BY NOW THEY'VE PROBABLY FORCED SHOCKWAVE TO TALK. AND THE FIRST TIME THIS FLAT IS VACATED-- EVEN FOR AN HOUR--

--THERE'LL BE AN EXPERT SEARCH FOR THIS TAPE.





SO FOR THE TIME BEING--

-- THE SAFEST PLACE FOR IT IS WITH US. NOW...



I'M READY, LEIKO. MY MIND REALIZES WHAT MUST BE...

... ARE YOU ALL RIGHT SHANG? ARE YOU READY, I MEAN, AFTER WHAT YOU SAID EARLIER... ABOUT THE VIOLENCE NEVER ENDING?



... EVEN IF MY HEART SOMETIMES CANNOT UNDERSTAND.

YES, I KNOW.



WELL, WE'VE GOT THREE PEOPLE TO SAVE AND SCOTLAND'S A LONG WAY OFF, SO WE'D BETTER TAKE THE HIGH ROAD--

--WITHOUT WASTING ANY MORE TIME.



ONE LAST MATTER, LEIKO--IF SHOCK-WAVE HAS SPOKEN TO MI-G, THEN WE ARE NO SAFER THAN YOUR FLAT IS.

I'VE ALREADY THOUGHT OF THAT. THAT'S WHY I ASKED IF YOU WERE ALL RIGHT.

AND SINCE YOU ARE...



...WE'LL JUST HAVE TO CROSS THAT BRIDGE WHEN WE COME TO IT.

MER PR?



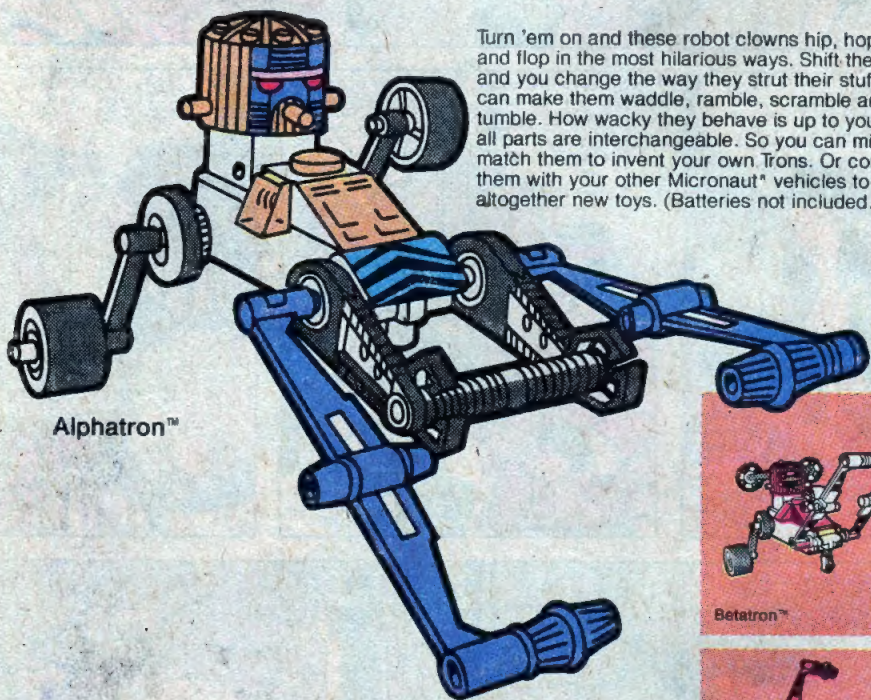
FACE IT, BLACK JACK, OLD MAN--IT'LL TAKE WU AND THE CHINAMAN HOURS TO GET HERE...

... AND YOU JUST CAN'T AFFORD TO WAIT THAT LONG.



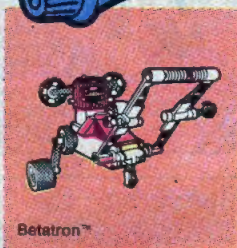
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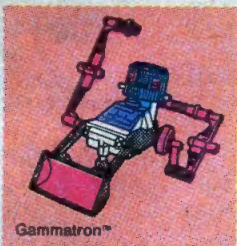


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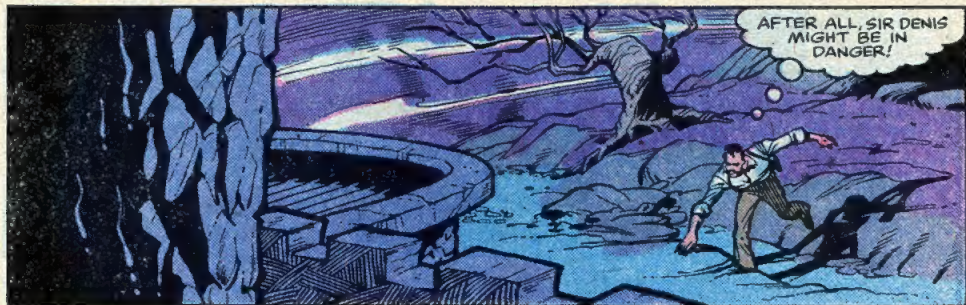


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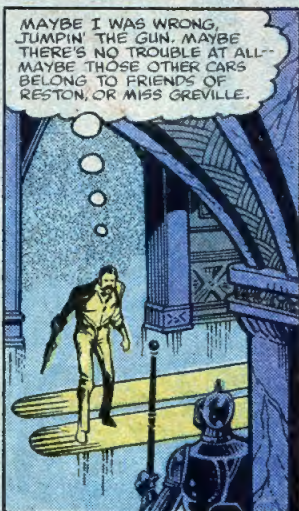


AFTER ALL, SIR DENIS MIGHT BE IN DANGER!



HMP--  
DOOR'S  
OPEN...

...AN!  
IT'S  
BLOODY  
QUIET  
INSIDE.

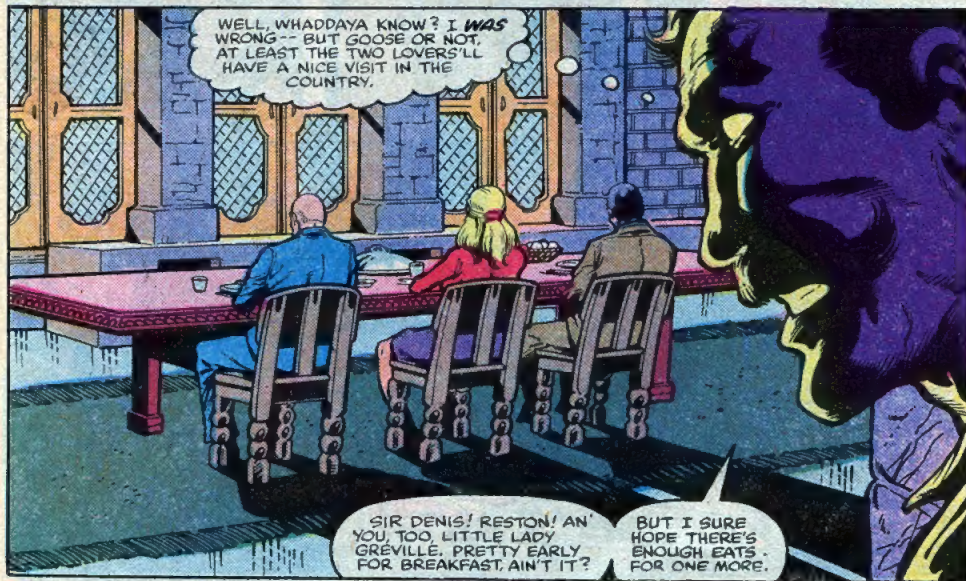


MAYBE I WAS WRONG,  
JUMPIN' THE GUN. MAYBE  
THERE'S NO TROUBLE AT ALL--  
MAYBE THOSE OTHER CARS  
BELONG TO FRIENDS OF  
RESTON, OR MISS GREVILLE.



MAYBE I'VE CALLED  
WU AN' THE CHINAMAN  
OUT ON NOTHIN' BUT  
A WILD GOOSE  
CHASE.

WHAT'S  
IN HERE?

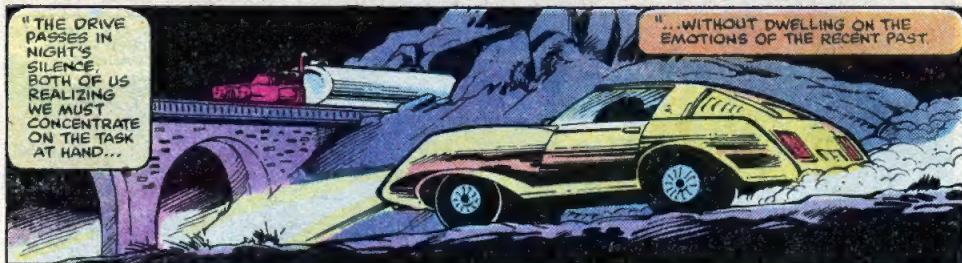


WELL, WHADDAYA KNOW? I WAS  
WRONG-- BUT GOOSE OR NOT,  
AT LEAST THE TWO LOVERS'LL  
HAVE A NICE VISIT IN THE  
COUNTRY.

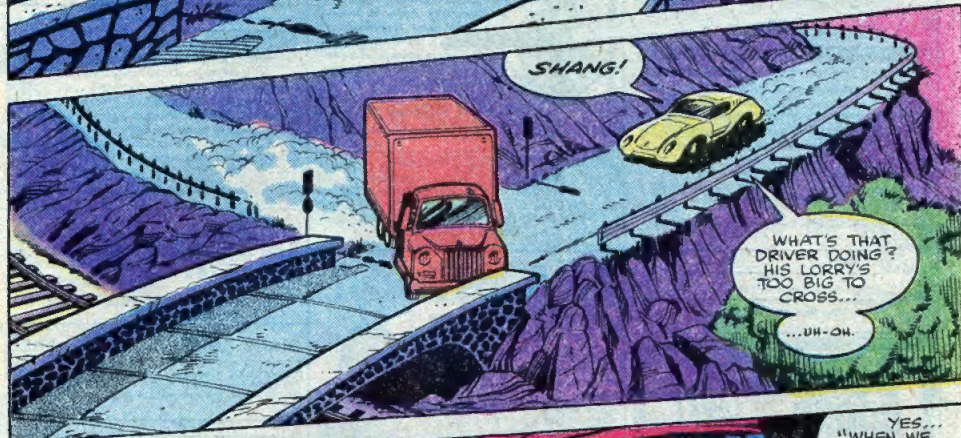
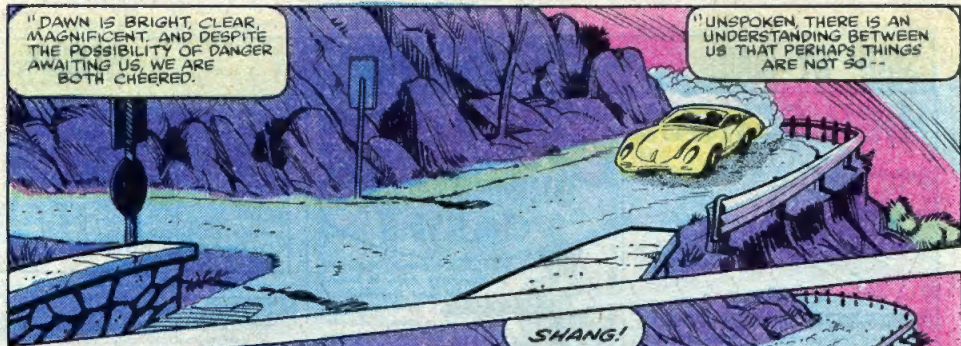
SIR DENIS! RESTON! AN'  
YOU, TOO, LITTLE LADY  
GREVILLE. PRETTY EARLY  
FOR BREAKFAST, AIN'T IT?

BUT I SURE  
HOPE THERE'S  
ENOUGH EATS  
FOR ONE MORE.











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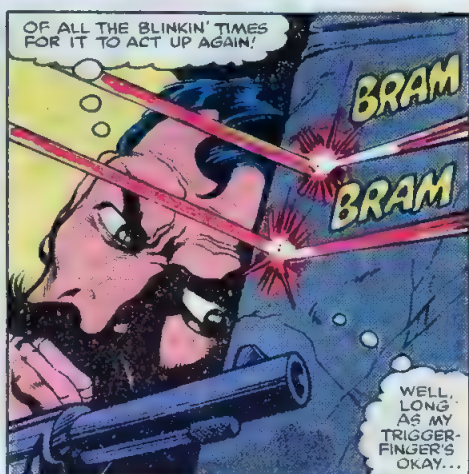
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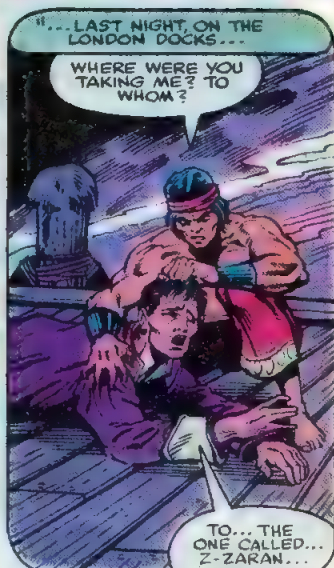
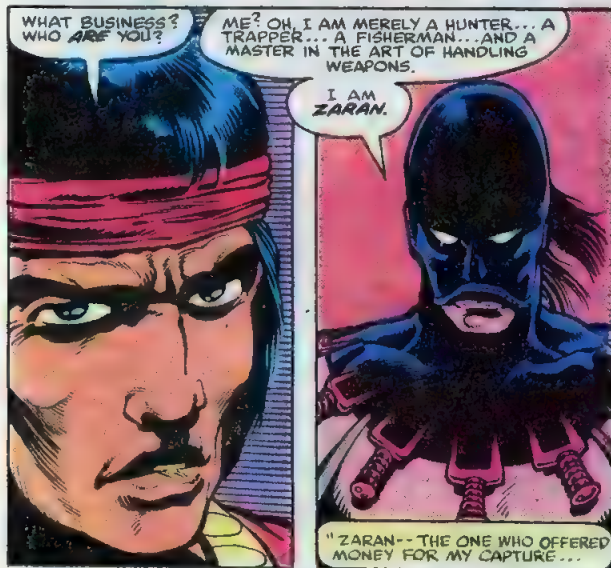
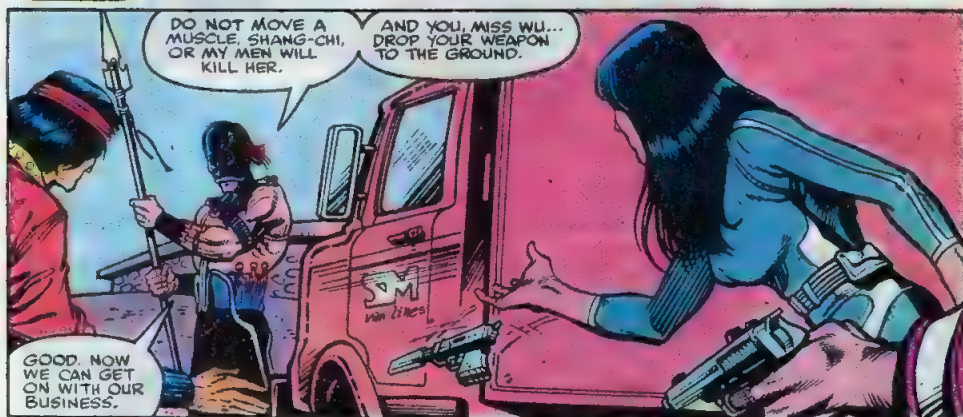




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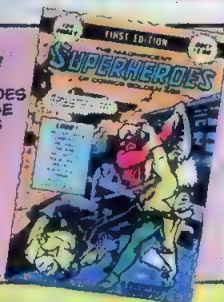
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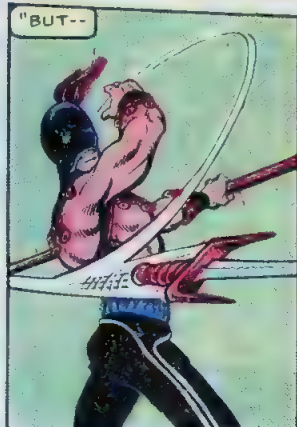
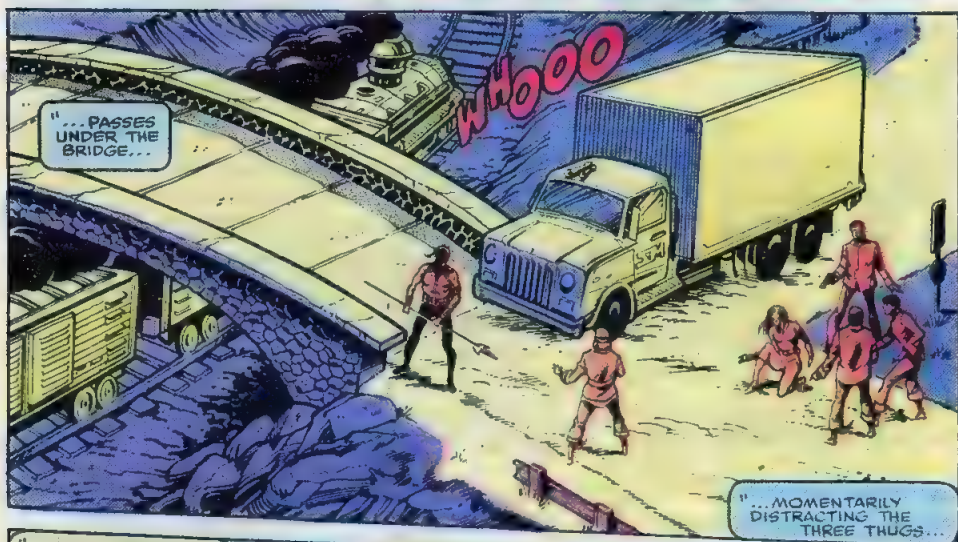
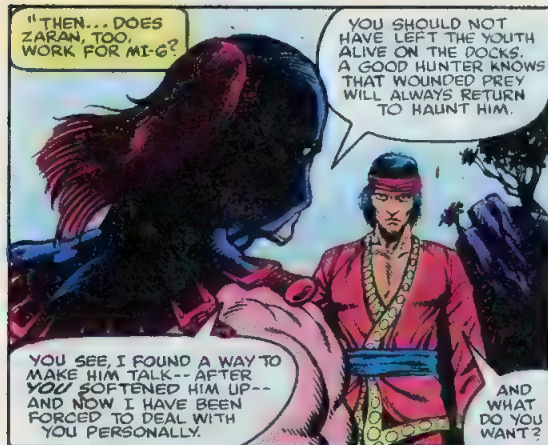
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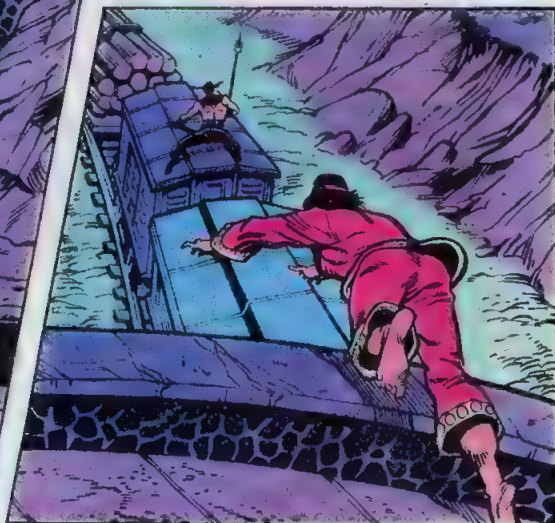
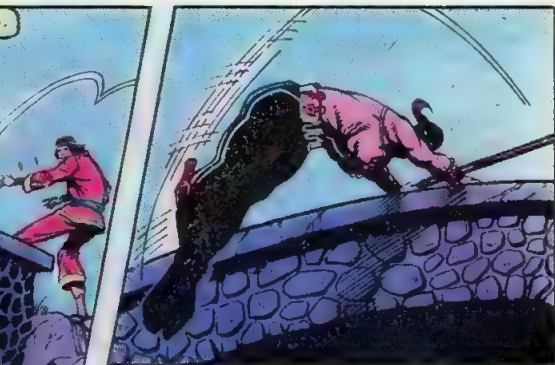


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"IT BOUNCES OFF ONE LOG,  
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OTHERS.

**TOK**

"THE TRAIN  
RUSHES ON.



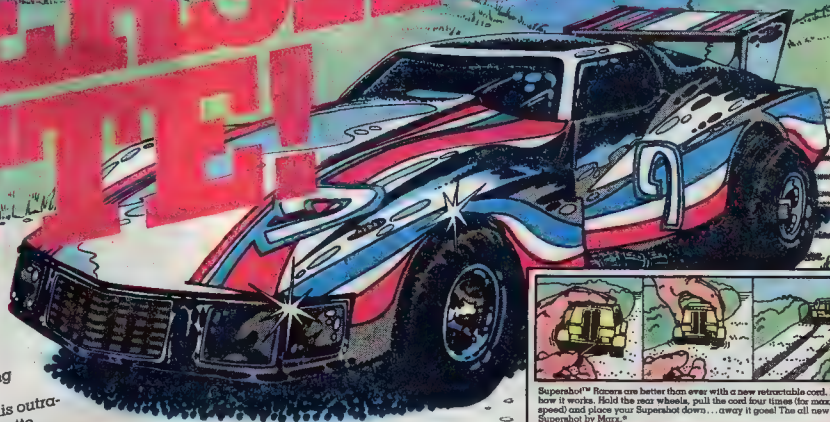
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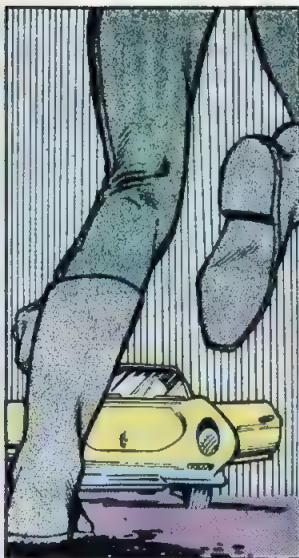
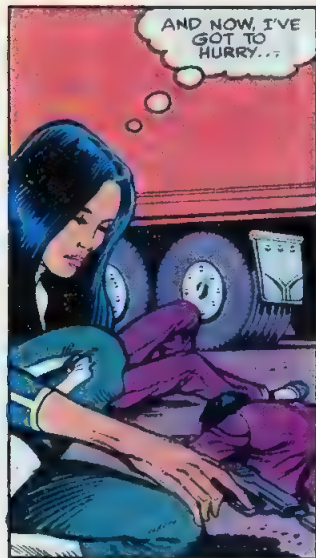
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"...MAKING ME A  
TARGET FOR HIS  
LONGER WEAPON,  
THAT WHICH  
SERVES AS BOTH  
A STAFF AND A  
PIKE..."



"BLOCKING IT, IT FEELS HOLLOW."

"BUT WHY? TO GIVE IT LESS  
WEIGHT--"



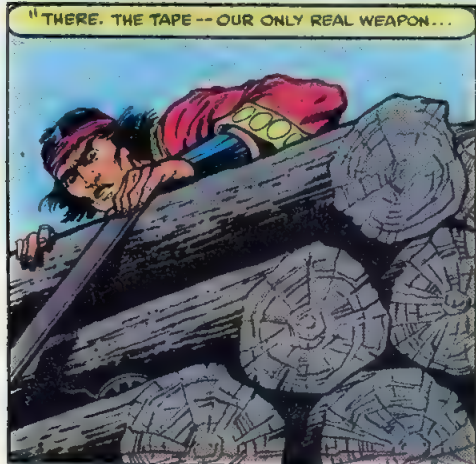
"--FOR  
SWIFTER  
SLASHES?"



"MUST ROLL  
WITH THE  
FORCE OF THE  
PIKE- STAFF  
HURL MYSELF  
OUTWARD  
TO LAND ON  
THE LOGS..."

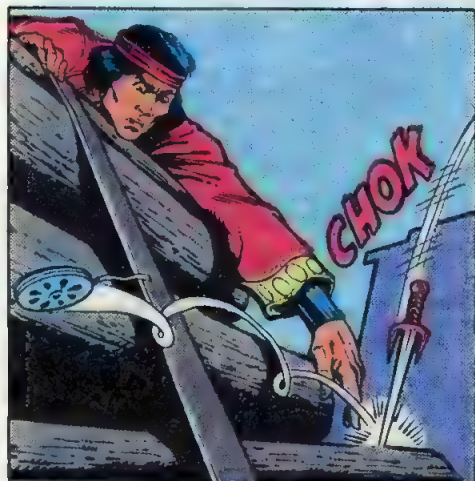
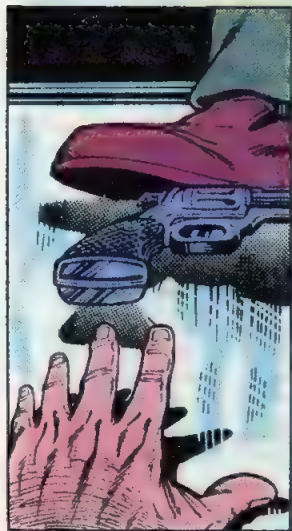
"...CHANNELING HIS ATTACK  
TOWARD THE SUCCESS OF  
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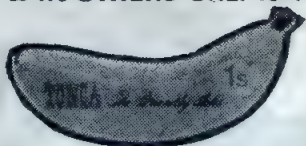
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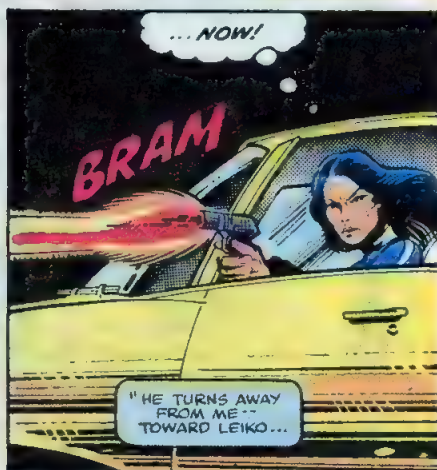
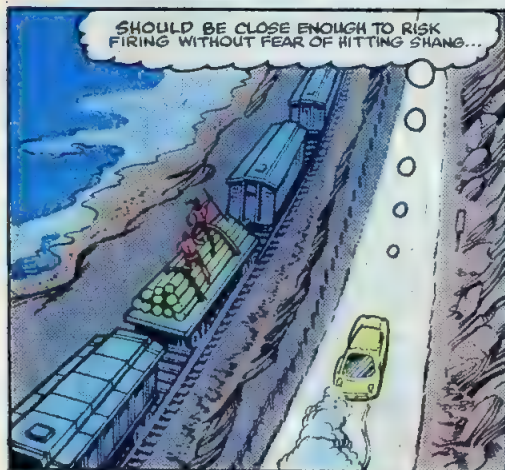
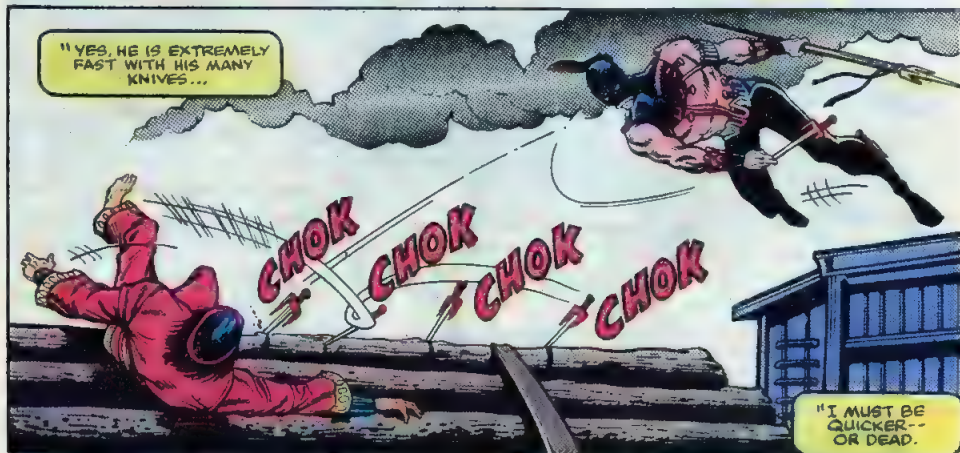
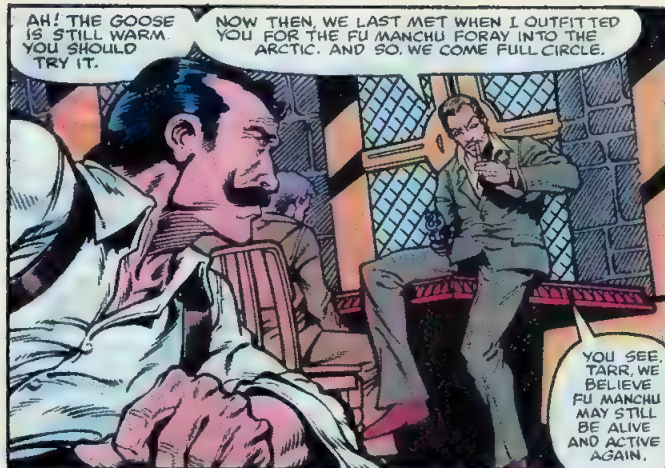
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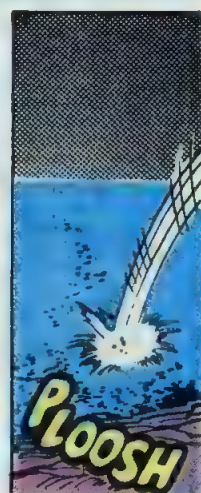
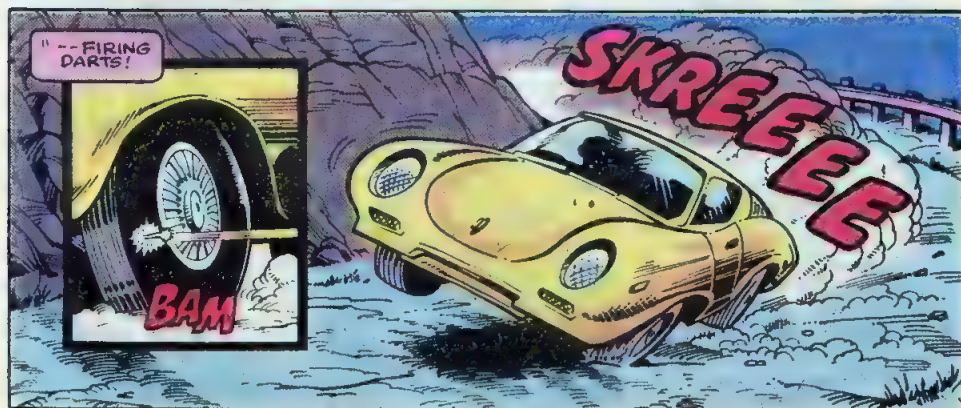














# BULLPEN BULLETINS

## STAN'S SOAPBOX

So there I was a few weeks ago, gabbin' with a gaggle of undergrads during a light-hearted lecture at the College of St. Thomas in Minnesota. We were yakking it up with the usual perceptively probing questions from the audience and the usual obliquely obfuscatory answers from yours truly. Everything was smoothly easing along until I suddenly announced that the mixed-up Marvel menagerie was planning a new and totally unique type of magazine to unleash upon a defenseless humanity before year's end. Then, from the frenetically frantic, excited reaction on the part of the merry Minnesotians, I figured I'd better start dropping a few heavy hints to the vast hordes of Marvel-dom Assembled, as well. So, here's all I dare tell you at the moment. We're daringly designing a magazine to be radically different from any we've ever done—aimed at a predominantly adult audience, but dazzling enough to entrance the sharper younger reader, too. It's so new and experimental that we haven't even zeroed in on the exact title yet. As for me, I'm personally so elated and excited about the project that I'll be taking over the reins as editor myself, with the most talented staff in publishing to aid, advise, and keep me out of trouble. We'll shoot more info your way as we keep zooming along, but for the present let's just call it "Project X"—and don't say we didn't warn you! Or, in the imperishable words of Irving Forbush, "Nous verrons ce que nous verrons!"

Excelsior!

*Stan*

**ITEM!** Last Spring, at a Creation Convention held here in New York, during a question-and-answer session with brand-new Editor-in-Chief Jim Shooter, someone asked whether Marvel would be raising the cover price on its comics soon. The question was not entirely unexpected, since another comics company had announced its intention to increase prices weeks before, and Jim had checked carefully with Marvel's top brass on the answer he gave: *Marvel Comics will hold the line throughout 1978 and into 1979 if possible.* As you undoubtedly noticed, last month, the second month of 1978, Marvel raised its cover price for comics from 35¢ to 40¢. We didn't like doing it—we wish we could have held out longer, but it was just not possible. Like everyone else, we're victims of the cur-

rent economic crunch, but keeping our word and stemming the tide of inflation as long as we could was very important to us. We could have upped prices along with the other guys, and banked a few more shekels last year maybe, but a promise is a promise. Anyway, we love weaving our fantastic fantasies as much as you enjoy sharing them. Since it's going to cost you a bit more to share them now, we'll just buckle down and try harder than ever to make our stories even more exciting and involving. Just thought you'd like to know.

**ITEM!** And now, when you least expect it, it's crossover time again! In issue #234 of **CAPTAIN AMERICA**, for instance, *Daredevil* swashbuckles in for what could be a very hot time. Meanwhile, **POWER MAN/IRON FIST** guest stars the *X-Men* for a showdown with the Living Monolith in a mind-boggler entitled (believe it or not) "Pharaohs On Broadway!" As if that weren't enough, **DOCTOR STRANGE** #35 features a guest appearance by the Avengers as the Master Mage tackles the mystery of the Black Knight's statue! They're all on sale now!

**ITEM!** We're very pleased to report that a certain extremely talented, versatile and creative writer has wandered Marvel's way of late, and it looks like he's here to stay. Welcome aboard, then, to "Macabre" **MICHAEL FLEISHER**, renowned for his superb work on the Spectre and Jonah Hex for the competition, and also for his recently published tome, *The Great Superman Book*. Michael's first assignment at Marvel should

come as no surprise—it's the **GHOST RIDER**, naturally. You can see why we're so high on Michael's style in issue #36 of *GR* as the Spirit of Vengeance wreaks havoc in Denver, Colorado! It's on sale now!

**ITEM!** Not to be outdone, the crack creative crew of the uncanny **X-MEN** has come up with another triumph in issue #122, on John (you guessed it) now! Chris Claremont, John Byrne and Terry Austin have combined to create a classic entitled "Cry For The Children!" which delves deep into the past of the beautiful mutant/goddess, Storm. It's an issue of insight and intrigue...a landmark! And wait! You see the graffiti on the walls in the tenement scene!

**ITEM!** While the Bullpen is busy creating new works of wonder, those wonderful folks over at Simon & Schuster are reprinting some of our past pinnacles of artistic achievement! **SPIDER-MAN Pocket Book #3**, for instance, features stories from *The Amazing Spider-Man* issues #14-20 in glorious color for only \$2.25! It's 153 pages of Lee-Ditko excitement and better book stores everywhere already have them!

**ITEM!** We get many letters from folks who are puzzled by, of all things, the credits on our magnificent magazines. We'd like to take this opportunity to clear up, for once and for all, which folks do what and why—but pay attention! We're only going to do this *once!* **Plotters:** Anybody so credited helped figure out the story, and usually typed up a short synopsis of the happenings therein. **Pencilers, Layouts, Breakdowns:** They're the heroes who draw the story in pencil using the plotter's story synopsis as a guide. **Writers:** These guys write the dialogue, captions, titles...and the credits. Some of them have a penchant for calling themselves *authors* and other highfalutin' names! They're usually the ones who do the plots too, so we don't bother crediting the plot unless someone other than the writer did it. **Letterers:** They do the hand lettering in the balloons from the writer's script. **Inkers, Finishers, Embellishers:** Artists so credited go over the penciled drawings with black India ink, making them darker and smudge-proof for better printing, as well as enhancing the style. **Colorists:** These stalwarts are given photostatic copies of the inked pages which they color with special dyes. They're used as color guides by the engraver. **Editors:** We...er, that is, "they" are the most important of all, being in charge of the whole operation. Editors assign all the other jobs and check everyone's work for mistakes, in general pulling everything together. And, as everyone knows, editors are the salt of the Earth. Got the facts straight now? Whew!



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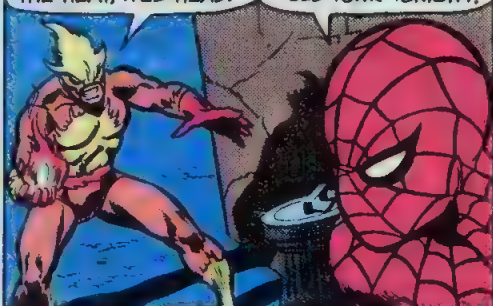
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OOOOPS! THAT WAS TOO CLOSE FOR COMFORT. MY OLD ENEMY **HOTSHOT** MUST BE ALL FIRED UP AGAIN.



YOU'LL BE A PILE OF ASHES WHEN I REALLY TURN ON THE HEAT, WEB HEAD.

IT'S GOING TO BE A HOT TIME IN THE OLD TOWN TONIGHT.



MY FIRE-RESISTANT WEBBING CAN TAKE WHATEVER YOU THROW AT ME, **HOTSHOT**.



LUCKILY I'M A SWINGER, TOO. IF I DON'T GET OLD **HOTSHOT** TO TURN OFF THE HEAT THIS COOKIE'LL BE BURNED TO A CRISP. BUT I'VE GOT A GREAT IDEA.



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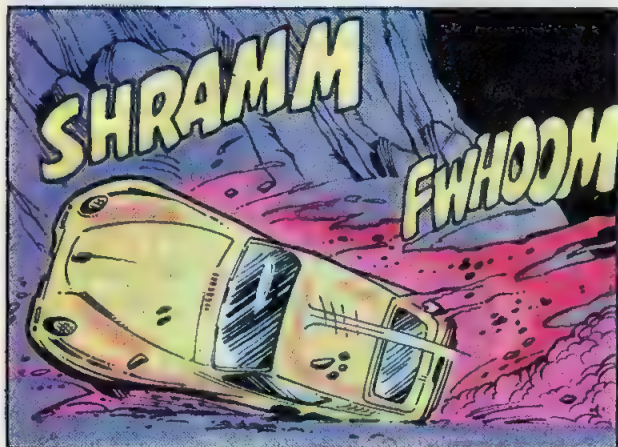
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**LEIKO!!**



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OH, PERHAPS SUSPICION.

OR PERHAPS MERELY FOR... **PRECAUTION.**



LEIKO! ARE YOU...?



THE TAPE, SHANG... OUR ONLY REAL WEAPON... DID YOU GET IT?

NO...



DON'T WORRY, SHANG... WE... WE'LL STILL... CROSS THE... B-BRIDGE...



"SHE SLUMPS SILENT, STILL... AND THERE ARE NO WEAPONS TO FIGHT IT."

**NEXT:**

WITH COLD RAGE IN HIS EYES AND VENGEANCE BURNING IN HIS HEART, SHANG-CHI STALKS THE STALKER, IN

**TREAD THE NIGHT SOFTLY**



# MISSIVES TO THE MASTER!

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579 Madison Avenue

New York, New York 10022

ROGER STERN  
EDITOR  
JIM SALICRUP  
ASSISTANT EDITOR

We're gonna forego our usual comments this time, there are just too many good letters and too few inches of column space as it is...

Sirs:

I used to read MOKF avidly, with dedication, in the same way I read Conan when he and Bilit were first getting it together. The MOKF stories were always good, but when I would rave about the art...no one paid much attention, although they would concede, "Uh, yes, the artwork is good." Then Gulacy left, as I knew he had to ("Why is this man drawing for comics in the first place?" I would ask myself), and I became one of those MOKF partial drop-outs alluded to in Mark Willard's letter. Oh, I still bought the book, but I wouldn't pick it up until I'd gone through the other comics I buy, albeit long before I touched your noble competition.

However, having just worked through my pile of comics in the traditional way, I have come to "Nights" in MOKF #71. I am extremely impressed. One of the things I've always liked about MOKF is its tendency to emphasize the feelings and moods of the characters, particularly Shang Chi, while de-emphasizing mindless action (read violence if you wish). I realize that this might not sell comics, and that you must please a certain young male adolescent head set (pardon the sexism), making #71 somewhat of a risk. But there are those of us out here who appreciate and enjoy such refreshing risks.

Finally, I very much like Mike Zeck's work (another transplanted Floridian...why do we ever leave?). Not that I want him to copy Gulacy's stuff, but I think it fair to say that there is a certain type of art which seems most appropriate to MASTER OF KUNG FU. Happily, and without copying, Mike seems to have captured that quality, particularly evident in the top three panels of page 21.

I'm going to have to rearrange the order of my reading again.

Cynthia Young  
1900 Diana Lane  
Champaign, IL

Dear Doug & Mike,

"Nights" is a gem sporting perhaps the biggest surprise ever found in an action comic. Typically, the third page from the end of almost every such comic features the violent climax of an action-filled episode; here, you've given us two people watching a movie and eating dinner. And it works. Indeed, I'm surprised that this episode was found acceptable by whomever decides, but a change of pace like this—even with a long flashback—serves to deepen the characters in a series where they are already unusually strong. One evening on a sofa with a cat and a pizza adds more to a storyline which is as steady as this one than any amount of bloodletting possibly could. When our fantasy protagonists occasionally appear in a robe and a turtleneck, and go to the movies without being maniacally assaulted, they seem closer to everyday reality, strengthening the impact of their extraordinary abilities when they do appear. I hope the sublime success of this issue is not lost on action oriented readers.

Bill Wu  
3024 Woodland Hills Dr., 14  
Ann Arbor, MI 48104

Dear Doug,

I want to thank you for a small but enjoyable part of MASTER OF KUNG FU—Cat. Most superheroes do not have pets, which is understandable, since pets are a responsibility. But one of the nice things about this comic is that you are never too busy with the plot or the action to let us know that

someone will be taking care of Cat while his friends are away. And this is understandable, too, since Shang Chi is not the sort of person who would forget to provide for his feline companion. (Unlike a certain Falcon whose Figaro's fate remains unknown—poor cat probably starved to death long ago.)

I also like the way you've allowed Cat to retain his dignity; thank heaven you never turned him into a lousy piece of "comedy relief." And so, I hope Cat will continue to grace the pages of this comic for a long, long time. He's just one of the little touches that elevated this comic above the other kung fu take offs and have since allowed it to survive the passing fad.

P.S. to Mike Zeck: Your art has improved considerably. Congratulations.

Ann Nichols  
4864 Sioux Ave.  
Sierra Vista, AZ 85635

Doug and Mike

I've noticed (with glee) that a lot of the older villains from the pages of MOKF have been popping up recently. Fu Manchu and Fah Lo Suee aren't likely to show themselves again for a while, I suppose, but practically everyone else has. First Tiger-Claw and his Si Fan Warriors; then robotic reminders of Pavane, Shadow Stalker, Razor Fist, Shockwave, and Shaka Kharn; then the real Pavane and Shen Kuei; and now the real Shockwave and...Brynocki! (I can't wait to see Mordillo's redecorated island and the amusing new games awaiting there.)

I love your villains, Doug, one and all. Comics have never seen psychotic antagonists to equal Valero, Mordillo, War Yore...and even Maximus the Mad was never portrayed better than in your INHUMANS strip. And your kung fu baddies are truly amazing to behold, with all sorts of clubs, chains, spikes—you name it—attached to arms, legs, hair, here, there and everywhere. On the surface they're impossible, and yet they come off deadly serious. Kogar was my favorite, being the ultimate in this category; he even came with interchangeable parts.

In closing, I'm glad you're giving these wonderful anti-socials and hardware freaks their quota of return appearances, Doug. Never stop. And keep churning out new ones too. Any book that can feature a character like Rufus T. Hackstaber with any credibility is a book in which anything can happen. I wouldn't want it any other way.

Meredith Robbins  
230 Venado Ave.  
Thousand Oaks, CA 91360

Dear Doug, Mike, and Bruce,

Brynocki! The last time I saw Brynocki was on the occasion of Mordillo's death; it was also the first time I saw the little fellow. So you can imagine my delight at his return; it impressed me almost as much as the other developments in this current storyline, and that's something. Following a multi-part MOKF story is not always easy, but it is constantly rewarding. I became a regular reader shortly before the "Red Seas" saga. (M.E. Robbins told me what I was missing, in no uncertain terms.) At first, I had a devil of a time following all the intricate plot maneuvers, and did not fully appreciate the beauty of the story, until I could reread it all in one sitting. But now that I'm familiar with all the characters and their situations, I'm following the current storylines with much more ease, and I can actually anticipate some events. It's a masterpiece, this book. Be proud of yourselves.

Kurt Busiek  
Box 88—Lawrinson 303 Stadium Pl.  
Syracuse, NY 13210

Thanks, People. Next issue we'll probably return to some mouth-shooting of our own. Till then, be good!



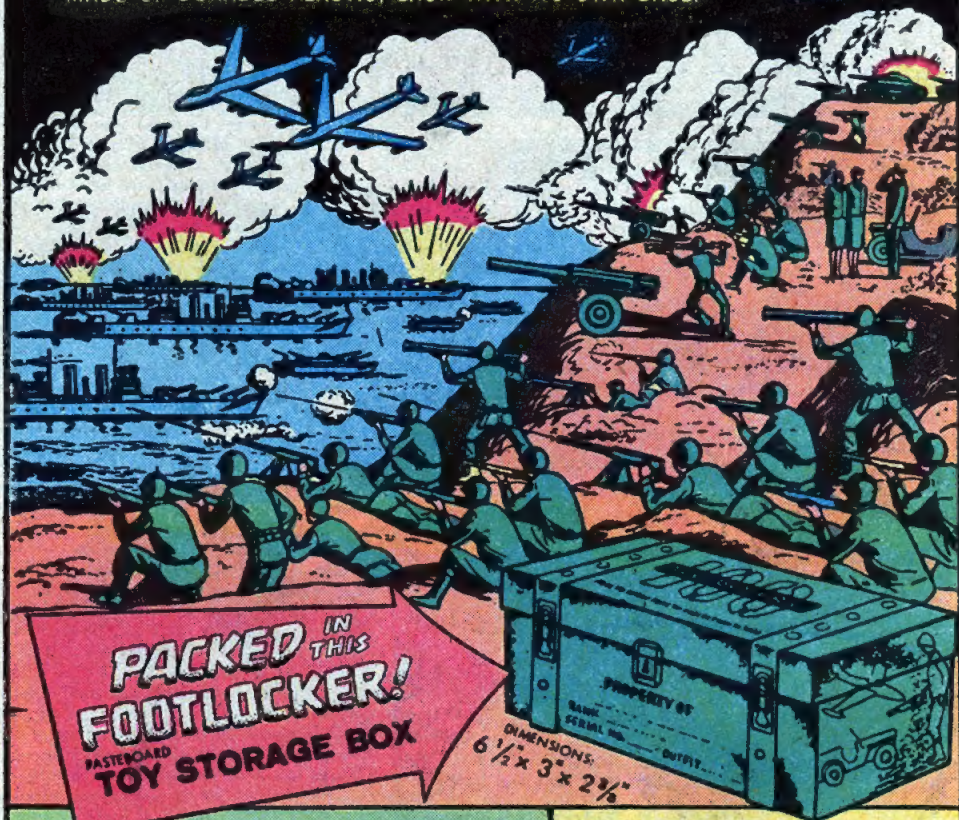
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AND  
DR. J!

HEY LOOK!  
IT'S RICK BARRY  
AND DR. J!!



GLAD TO SEE YOU'RE  
PLAYING WITH A  
SPALDING  
RUBBER BALL  
LIKE I GREW UP  
WITH.

YEAH,  
THOSE  
VINYL  
BALLS ARE  
JUST TOO  
SLICK!



AW, WHAT  
DIFFERENCE  
CAN THE  
BALL MAKE?



MY MAN, FOR REAL  
BALL HANDLING,  
YOU NEED THAT

...SPALDING  
TOUCH!!!

SLAMDUNK!

HE  
PLAYS  
UP IN THE  
LIGHTS!

WHAT  
MOVES!



NOW IT'S MY TURN,  
JULIUS!

A  
30-  
FOOTER!!

WHAT  
A MAGIC  
TOUCH!

YOU  
DON'T NEED  
MAGIC -JUST  
PRACTICE WITH  
A SPALDING  
AUTOGRAPH  
BALL. IT'S GOT A  
RUBBER COVER  
SO YOU CAN  
REALLY GET  
A GRIP ON  
IT.



I  
BELIEVE  
IT! I  
BELIEVE  
IT!!

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WITH THE SURE-HANDED  
FEEL, LOOK FOR OUR  
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